

## Message Text

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ACTION NASA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 9943

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGEIRS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 1708

DEPT PASS NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, TSPA

SUBJECT: ASTRONAUTS VISIT

1. ASTRONAUTS VISIT TO CAIRO WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. STAFFORD, SLAYTON AND BRAND, AND DR. FAROUK EL BAZ PRESENTED POSITIVE IMAGE OF AMERICAN SPACE PROGRAM AND LEADERSHIP IN AREAS OF SPACE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE MANNER. SUCCESS OF VISIT WAS PRIMARILY DUE TO PERSONABLE, SINCERE, KNOWLEDGEABLE IMAGE THAT GROUP REJECTED ON ALL OCCASIONS.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF STAY WAS HALF-HOUR MEETING ON SATURDAY WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN WHICH ASTRONAUTS PRESENTED MODEL OF APOLLO SHUTTLE AND FLAG OF EGYPT WHICH WAS FLOWN ON THEIR MISSION. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED AND DURING GIVE-AND-TAKE DISCUSSION PRESIDENT QUESTIONED CREW ON DETAILS OF THEIR FLIGHT AS WELL AS SPACE PROGRAM ITSELF. THREE DAYS EARLIER, DR. EL UNCLASSIFIED

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BAZ PRESENTED ATLAS OF EGYPT COMPOSED OF COLOR

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN FROM ASTP TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. LECTURE SATURDAY EVENING AT CAIRO AVIATION CLUB WAS GIVEN TO SRO AUDIENCE THAT INCLUDED MINISTER OF AVIATION, COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE, SCIENTISTS, MEMBERS OF CLUB AND PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONNEL. LECTURE AND SLIDE DEMONSTRATION ON APOLLO MISSION WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED AND FOLLOWED BY QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

4. PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDED RECORDING OF TV INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON POPULAR INTERNATIONAL CLUB PROGRAM SUNDAY EVENING, TOUR OF REMOTE SENSING PROJECT TO SHOW HOW SPACE PHOTOS ARE APPLIED IN GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TO DEMONSTRATE HOW SPACE PHOTOGRAPHY IS USED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS ON EARTH, MEETING WITH AND LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, AND RECEPTION AT HOME OF DCM WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY LARGE NUMBER OF GUESTS FROM DIPLOMATIC, PRESS, GOVERNMENT AND SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE THROUGHOUT AKHER SAA'A DEVOTED COVER STORY OF FEBRUARY 4 ISSUE TO APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT AND RESEARCH BEING DONE BY DR. EL BAZ. THROUGHOUT STAY, CAIRO PRESS CARRIED STORIES AND PHOTOS ON ASTRONAUTS RANGING FROM ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT, RIDING CAMELS AT PYRAMIDS TO THE RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, INNUMERABLE SPOT INTERVIEWS WERE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF PRESS, RADIO, TV AND NEWS AGENCIES.

6. COMMENT: THE ASTRONAUTS ARE A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH AND ARE EXTREMELY FINE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES. THEIR SCHEDULE WAS CROWDED AND THEY RARELY HAD A FREE MOMENT, BUT THEY NEVER ONCE COMPLAINED ABOUT ANYTHING. THEY HAD TO ANSWER REPEATEDLY SAME QUESTIONS PUT BY DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AND DID SO COURTEOUSLY AND CHEERFULLY. THEY WERE COMPLETELY AMENABLE TO ALL PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS. MORE IMPORTANTLY THEY DISPLAYED KEEN INTEREST IN PEOPLE THEY WERE MEETING AND DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY. THEY RELATED TO ALL PEOPLE IN SAME GENUINE, OUTGOING FASHION AND EGYPTIANS RESPONDED SIMILARLY. THEY, ALONG WITH DR. EL BAZ, REPRESENT TO FULLEST EXTENT TYPE OF GOODWILL VISITORS THAT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED MORE OFTEN TO VISIT FOREIGN COUNTRIES ON BEHALF OF U.S. POST WILL WELCOME ANY FURTHER VISITS BY THIS TEAM OR INDIVIDUALS OF SAME HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM AND ENTHUSIASM FOR PROTECTING POSITIVE IMAGE OF U.S. RUSSELL

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